## TITLE

## A CONVERGENT SYNTHESIS OF $\alpha$ -ARYL- $\beta$ -KETONITRILES

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to processes for the production of  $\alpha$ -aryl- $\beta$ -ketonitriles, which serve as synthetic intermediates in the preparation of a series of biologically important molecules such as corticotropin releasing factor (CRF) receptor antagonists.